

level since 2014. Thirteen million individuals are still on some type of unemployment, while over 9 million jobs remain unfilled.

This type of scenario is essentially unheard of and totally artificially created by the Biden administration. They failed to get the \$15 minimum wage, so now they have artificially cut the American workforce in an attempt to force wages upward. Such a forced, quick increase in wages will undoubtedly be inflationary as small businesses, and even large fast food chains, will have to raise their prices just to maintain viability.

Do they think the American people are that stupid? Endless borrowing has consequences. Republican lawmakers see this every day as ordinary Americans are having to bear the cost of excessive Democrat spending. At the gas pump, in the grocery store, at the mall, and at the car dealership, my constituents are having to spend more of their hard-earned dollars just to get to work, feed their children, and care for loved ones.

The numbers don't lie. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, gas prices are up 45 percent from last year; used car prices are up 45 percent; airfare is up 24 percent; and hotel prices are up 16 percent. At the grocery store, bacon is up 8 percent; fruit prices are up 7 percent; fish prices are up 6 percent; and milk is up 5 percent. Even to pour a cup of coffee, Americans are feeling the cost of the Democrats' reckless spending spree.

Unfortunately, under Biden's leadership, the situation looks bleak. House Democrats are well accustomed to spending beyond their means, but they routinely ignore its negative impact on the American people.

What is worse is that experts agree the Democrats' far-left proposals will undoubtedly lead to higher taxes on the vast majority of middle-class American families.

Here is what we know. A recent report from the Tax Policy Center found that Biden's tax plan will increase taxes on an astounding 75 percent of middle-class Americans and raise taxes on 95 percent of Americans by 2031. This broken policy work has real consequences that are completely unsustainable.

Another study by the Wharton School of Business shows that Biden's \$6 trillion budget would slow economic growth, shrink the American economy, and cut workers' hours and wages. In fact, annualized real wages are already down by 3.95 percent since 2020.

Madam Speaker, I implore my colleagues across the aisle to listen to their constituents and sympathize with what they are going through. More than that, I urge them to recognize that we, as lawmakers, have a responsibility to care for our citizens and ensure that Big Government policies do not squander American families and small businesses.

Look, this should be simple. All Americans understand that to stay fi-

nancially viable and intact, they must stick to a budget and spend within their means.

I encourage the Biden administration and its Democratic cohorts in the House to balance their own checkbooks immediately for the sake of the American people and to stop this reckless spending spree.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord our God, as we set our sights on the week ahead, we do so with a certain degree of anticipation and anxiety. There is much to discuss, many concerns to address, and a wide array of perspectives to consider.

By Your gracious guidance, as You lead us into these next couple days, call us to pay attention to Your inimitable wisdom, to turn our ears to Your words, that we would keep them within our hearts.

Above all else, may each of us keep watch over our innermost souls, knowing that everything we do reflects its integrity.

Keep our mouths from perversity and corrupt talk from our lips.

But remind us to look straight ahead with purpose, fixing our gaze, today and throughout the week, on the goals You would have us reach.

And may we be intent on taking heed of Your direction.

May we be steadfast in all we do.

May we be worthy of this place in time to serve You, this country, and our communities.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CRISIS

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I stood here nearly a month ago to deliver a very similar message: once-in-a-lifetime storms are becoming our reality in Michigan.

In the last month, southeast Michigan has flooded three times in the city of Dearborn, nearly 20,000 homes have been impacted. My constituents can't recover from one flood before it worsens and another one hits and there is more damaged property, more lost valuables.

People are angry. People are scared. And they have every right to be. That is because we have known the solution to these disasters for a while. The time for climate action is now. This starts with investing in resilient infrastructure to protect our communities from the impacts of climate crisis.

We need to invest in infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters and make it easier on the American people to recover. We can't continue to have these floods couched as once-in-a-lifetime, if you call them that, when people are dealing with unimaginable damages in my city for the third time in 4 weeks.

We need a strong infrastructure package that takes bold action and addresses change head-on.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

(Mr. NEHLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, it is nearly August, a full 7 months since the Biden administration assumed control of the White House, and still there is no end in sight for the Biden border crisis.

It has been a month since Biden border czar, KAMALA HARRIS, hopped off of her jet for 90 minutes for a photo shoot near the border, which she dubbed as a southern border visit, and still nothing has changed.

March was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until April. April was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until May. May was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until June. And we are on pace to set another record in July.

How many records must be broken, crimes committed, victims trafficked before the Biden administration wakes